

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A lightweight valve (1) for internal combustion engines is proposed, which comprises a valve stem (3), a hollow valve cone (7) and a valve disk (9) closing the valve cone (7). In this connection, the valve stem (3) is provided with a hollow space (5) at its end facing the valve disk (9). The lightweight valve (1) is characterized by at least one force transmission element (19) which is provided on the valve disk (9) and extends through the hollow valve cone (7) into the stem hollow space (5). A method for manufacturing a lightweight valve is provided. The lightweight valve includes a valve stem, a hollow valve cone and a valve disk closing the valve cone, the valve stem being provided with a hollow space at an end facing the valve disk, the valve disk also having a force transmission element extending through the hollow valve cone into the stem hollow space. The method includes producing a first one-piece component forming the valve disk with the force transmission element by casting, forming and/or a powder metallurgy method, producing a second component forming the valve stem and the valve cone and joining the first and second components together and connecting them by a material, non-positive and/or positive connection.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0034]:

[0034.1] After valve stem 3 and valve cone 7 are joined with valve disk 9, valve stem 3 may be subsequently hardened, preferably inductively hardened, in the end region of valve stem 3 facing away from valve disk 9. Also, the outer surface of lightweight valve 1 may be provided with a protective layer by plating.